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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /084 W
---------- 009329
R 200952Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6752
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652/ NA
TAGS: PFOR, RP
SUBJECT: MANILA VISIT OF THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTTER CHATICHAI

1. OFFICIAL VISIT OF THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN TO MANILA BEGAN JULY 18 IN AN
ATMOSPHERE OF WARMTH AND CORDIALITY THAT SEEMS LIKELY
TO ADVANCE BOTH BILATERAL AND ASEAN INTERESTS IN A
GENERAL WAY BUT WITHOUT, AS FAR AS WE YET KNOW,
DEFINITIVE FORWARD MOTION ON MAJOR POLICY MATTERS.
TWO POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS ARE WORTHY OF NOTE:
(A) AT A DINNER HOSTED BY FONSEC GEN ROMULO ATTENDED
BY TOP CABINET AND MILIARY LEADERS, ROMULO ANNOUNCED AND
CHATICHAI CONFIRMED "FIRST SHIPMENT" OF 10,000 TONS OF
RICE NOW GETTING UNDER WAY.

(B) IN RESPONDING TO WARM TOAST TO THAI-PHILIPPINE
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FRIENDSHIP WHICH ROMULO SAID SHOULD GROW PROGRESSIVELY

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STRONGER TIL ALLIANCE BECAME "LIKE HOOPS OF STELL",
CHATICHAI SAID RTG "ACCEPTS" PRESIDENT MARCOS' IDEA OF
AN ASIAN FORUM.

2. FIRST FULL DAY OF VISIT BEGAN WITH BREAKFAST AT
MALACANANG FEATURING AWARD OF USUAL DECORATION FOR VISIT-
ING GOVT LEADERS, ORDER OF SIKATUNA IN RANK OF DATU,
AND MEETING WITH MARCOS WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE GONE WELL,
BUT, WE ARE AWARE, LASTED LESS THAN TIME BLOCKED ON

MARCOS' CALENDAR.

3. OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN REPORTED PRESIDENT CALLED FOR
MORE FREQUENT VISITS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AMONG
ASEAN NATIONS, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CHATICAAI'S
VISIT WOULD "ADVANCE THE TECHNIQUE AND MACHINERY FOR CON-
TINUED CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER THAT CONFLICTS EXISTING
AMONG ASEAN MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES CAN BE IMMED-
IATELY ELIMINATED".

4. BULLETIN TODAY REPORTED THAT ROMULO DISCUSSED WITH
CHATICHAI THE CREATION OF A BODY WHICH CAN HELP IN THE
MEDIATION OF PROBLEMS AMONG ASEAN NATIONS, REMARKING THAT
THE CREATION OF SUCH A BODY "WOULD CONTRIBUTE IMMENSELY
TOWARD THE RALIZATION OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND
NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA". REPORTEDLY, ROMULO SAID
HE AND CHATICHAI WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT "THE MEMBERS OF
ASEAN SHOULD CONSIDER IT AN OBLIGATION TO SETTLE THEIR
PROBLEMS, THROUGH TESTED METHODS OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT,
AND THUS PREVENT THE INTRUSION OF OTHER POWERS IN THE
SOLUTION OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS".

COMMENT: MEANING OF REFERENCE TO THAI SHIPMENT OF RICE
IS NOT YET CLEAR. IN MAKING HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, CHATICHAI
FIRST SAID "SHIPMENT" AND THEN CORRECTED HIMSELF TO REPEAT
ROMULO'S PHRASE, "FIRST SHIPMENT". ACCORDING TO RICE AND
CORN ADMINISTRATOR (RCA) TANCHANCO, CHATICHAI HAS
BROUGHT A THAI COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE 100,000 TONS, BUT
TIME PERIOD NOT STATED. PHIL CONSTABULARY CHIEF GENERAL
RAMOS, WHO CURRENTLY SHARES WITH TANCHANCO RESPONSIBILITY
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FOR INSURING FOOD GRAIN DISTRIBUTION
AND WHO HAS NOT SHARED IN TANCHANCO'S PAST EXAGGERATIONS
OF FOREIGN SOURCE AVAILABILITIES, EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM
AS TO WHETHER ANY LARGER COMMITMENT IS FIRM UNLESS FROM
NEXT CROPS. RAMOS DID SAY THAT THE 10,000 TON ARRANGEMENT
IS REAL AND IS BETWEEN THAI PRIVATE TRADERS AND GOP.
HAMILTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, EXPORTS, VISITS, GOODWILL VISITS, AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANILA08308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730720/aaaaaosf.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MANILA VISIT OF THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTTER CHATICHAI
TAGS: PFOR, RP, TH, ASEAN, (CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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